

REMARKS

The comments of the applicant below are each preceded by related comments of the examiner (in small, bold type).

3. Claims 1-21,23,24,26-31, and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Graef et al. (US 4,664,369, hereinafter "Graef").

Re claims 1-4, 8-12, 17, 18, 20,21,23,24,30,31, and 33-38, Graef teaches a thickness indicator apparatus used in Automated Teller Machine (ATM) (see abstract; col. 2, lines 27+) for detecting double bills when the bills are retrieved from the stack (col 1, lines 34+; col. 3, lines 58+; col. 6, lines 4+). The thickness detector is comprised of two elongated fingers 50 (or free ends) attached to a wishbone 45 (col. 4, lines 16+; see figure 3). When bills move between the plate 42 and the elongated fingers 50, the elongated fingers are displaced/pushed by the thickness of the bill (col. 4, line 51— col. 5, line 37). Reclaims, the bill moving path further comprised of a roller 12 and a counter rotating roller 36 (col. 3, lines 36+; col. 3, lines 60+).

Response to Argument

6. Applicant's amended claims and arguments filed on March 10, 2005 have been carefully considered, but they are not persuasive. It is the Examiners view that the Graef patent still discloses the subject matter recited in the amended claims.

Applicant amended claim 1 such that the claim 1 now recites "A method comprising withdrawing currency from a stack of bills for dispensing to a customer by which the free end is moved by measuring relative rotation of the two inductively coupled elements." In doing so, Applicant argues that the amended claim overcame the rejection made with Graef patent. Examiner respectfully disagrees. As shown in Graef (figures 1 and 2), the wishbone-looking member 48 with two fingers 50 are displaced when the currency goes between the frame and the bottom parts 50 of the two finger 46. As further disclosed in figures 6-11, the target member is displaced toward the sensor 66. The wishbone member is mounted to the frame 15 by pin 58 which goes through the counter sunk hole 54. From the horizontal perspective (see figure 1; the line going through the spring 64 and pin 58), the target 52 rotates toward to or away from the sensor 62. The sensor 66 and target 52 work in inductive manner.

Claim 1 has been amended. Even if the apparatus of Graef can be said to measure relative rotation of target 52 and sensor 66 by measuring their proximity, it does not describe and would not have made obvious measuring the movement of the finger by "measuring relative rotation of two inductively coupled elements which maintain a uniform separation."

Re claim 6, the thickness of the bill causes wishbone 45 to rotate about the pin 58 in counter clockwise direction (col. 5, lines 9+), Accordingly, the pin is considered a rotational axis.

Re claims 7,13 15, and 16 as bills pass between the plate 40 and elongated finger, the target 52 rotates toward the proximity sensor 66 (col. 4, lines 39+), and the sensor generates a voltage

signal proportional to the distance between the sensor 66 and the target 52 in inductive manner.

Re claim 14, as shown in figure I, the elongated finger 50 is connected to a spring-loaded locking means 64 (col. 4, lines 28-38).

Re claims 19 and 26-29, as shown in figure 3 the apparatus is comprised of a housing/frame 15 which houses a bill thickness detecting component (see figure 3; col. 3, lines 36+).

With regard to claims 19, 26-29, 30, and 35, and claims that depend on them, the applicant responded to these arguments in the reply to the previous office action. If the distinguishing features over the prior art and the advantages of these features as pointed out by the applicant are insufficient to establish patentability, the applicant respectfully asks the examiner to explain why they are insufficient, so that the applicant may respond appropriately.

5. Claims 22, 25, and 32 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graef et al. (US 4,664,369).

Although Graef does not explicitly suggests the details of the housing as they are recited in the above-mentioned claims (snap-in bearings and grounding elements comprising braided wire and metal lugs), it is the Examiner's view that Graef shows a box-type of housing which is substantially the same housing Applicant claims, Perhaps the component parts for building such housing may be different, but it is the Examiner's view that more substantial elements -- thickness (or double bills) detection utilizing elongated fingers are disclosed by Graef. The differences in conducting housing may not patentable unless Applicant particularly points out patentabilities of the housing.

The examiner's view as to the relative importance of claimed elements is not relevant to the question of patentability. Graef does not describe and would not have made obvious plastic "snap-in" bearings, nor using plastic snap-in bearings with molded walls in a currency dispenser as recited in claim 25. The applicant pointed out advantages of these features in the reply to the previous office action. Specifically, in some examples in the specification, the organization of the walls of the housing, the construction of the walls, the location of various elements, and the use of plastic snap-in bearings all enable rapid and therefore inexpensive assembly and lower labor costs, among other things. Traditionally, currency dispensers are fabricated using steel parts in a much more cumbersome process. A person of ordinary skill in the art of designing currency dispensers would not have found it obvious to use the combination of separate molded walls and plastic snap-in bearings claimed.

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons for which the claims on which they depend are patentable.

Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

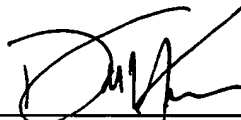
Any circumstance in which the applicant has (a) addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner, (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims, or (c) amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Enclosed is a \$510 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, reference 13543-003001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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